

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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R 211510Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4271

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PARTY CONGRESS CLOSES

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1668 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MAURITANIAN PARTY CONGRESS CLOSED AUGUST 20 FOLLOWING REELECTION OF PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH AS SECRETARY GENERAL, ELECTION OF NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL, AND APPROVAL OF PARTY RESOLUTIONS. PERIOD OF CONGRESS HAD TO BE EXTENDED DUE TO HEATED DVDCUSSIONS OVER CALL FOR CREATION IN MAURITANIA OF "ISLAMIC SOCIALIMS". RUMORED MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND REORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THEY ARE STILL IN OFFING. END SUMMARY.

1. MAURITANIA'S FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS ENDED LATE EVENING AUGUST 20, MORE THAN 50 HOURS AFTER SCHEDULED CLOSING. DURING FINAL SESSION, CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED 122 MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARTI DU PEUPLE MAURITANIEN (PPM). MOKTAR OULD DADDAH WAS REELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF PPM BY ACCLAMATION. HE WAS EXPLICITLY IDENTIFIED ALSO AS SOLE PPM CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC.

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IN SEPARATE ACTION NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO CONGRESS, NATIONAL

POLITICAL BUREAU OF PPM ISS SCHEDULED TO BE ELECTED AUGUST 21.

2. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE EXTEMPORANEOUS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, OULD DADDAH EMPHASIZED THAT 4TH PARTY CONGRESS WAS ONE OF "CLARIFICATION," CATCH-WORD USED THROUGHOUT PAST WEEK TO DESCRIBE CONGRESS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATING YOUTH INTO PARTY AND DEVELOPING FULL CONSENSUS THROUGH EDUCATION OF YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF ELDERS. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THIS WAS LARGELY ACCOMPLISHED DURING 4TH CONGRESS. IN ENUMERATING REASONS WHY INTEGRATION OF YOUTH IS IMPORTANT, OULD DADDAH EXPLICITLY CITED INEVITABILITY OF RETIREMENT OF OLDER LEADERS, CLEARLY IMPLYING HIMSELF. IN PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN HE ADMITTED TO PERIODS OF DISCOURAGEMENT WHICH, HE SAID, HE WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME BY THINKING BACK TO SITUATION OF 15 YEARS AGO AND TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONCLUDED, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

3. FINAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY CONGRESS FALL IN CATEGORY OF THE EXPECTED. IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, CONGRESS REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR UN, OAU, AND ARAB LEAGUE. IT SINGLED OUT OMVS, HOPING THAT ORGANIZATION CAN GET ON WITH ITS WORK. CONGRESS AFFIRMED ADHESION TO COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (CDEO), WELCOMED CREATION OF ECOWAS, AND CONGRATULATED GIRM FOR JOINING PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MAGHREB. CONGRESS ALSO CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF PALESTANIAN PEOPLE "WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ZIONIST IMPERIALISM", PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND AZANIA. IT DENOUNCED ZIONIST OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORY IN EGYPT AND SYRIA AND REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR "KOREAN PEOPLE IN THEIR BATTLE FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THEIR COUNTRY". KEY DOMESTIC RESOLUTIONS MANDATED NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU OF PPM TO REVISE MAURIPANIA'S CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO ADAPT IT TO NEW PARTY CHARTER. (CHARTER IS CONTAINED IN "RAPPORT MORAL", KEY CONGRESS DOCUMENT PREPARED BY PPM SECRETARY GENERAL). CONGRESS ALSO AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM 50 TO 70 AND TO ORGANIZE NEW ASSEMBLY BEFORE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN NOVEMBER.

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4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT PROLONGATION OF CONGRESS RESULTED FROM LONG AND HEATED DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING ONE ALL NIGHT SESSION, ABOUT GOAL OF "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM" SET FORTH IN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. MANY CONSERVATIVE MUSLIMS REPORTEDLY OBJECTED TO CALL FOR SOCIALISM, ARGUING THAT THIS WAS TANTAMOUNT TO ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNISM WHICH IS CONTRARY TO ISLAM. ALTHOUGH SYG'S REPORT DOES CALL FOR INSTITUTION OF "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM", REFERENCES ARE SIMILAR

TO THOSE HEARD IN MANY COUNTRIES ON CONTINENT FOR CREATION
OF LOCAL BRANDS OF SOCIALISM ADAPTED TO AFRICAN BACKGROUND.
IN FACT, SECTIONS OF SYG'S REPORT DEALING WITH "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM"
ESSENTIALLY CODIFY WHAT IS ALREADY SITUATION IN MAURITANIA.
RUMORED MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND REORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE
BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, ALTHOUGH

OHZL#IS FORESHADOWED BY CRYPTIC PARAGRAPH IN SYG'S REPORT
ASSERTING NEED FOR APPOINTMENT OF NUMBER OF SECRETARIES OF
STATE TO UNDERTAKE LONGER RANGE AND BROADER PLANNING AND
SUPERVISION OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES THAN PRESENT MINISTERS
CAN MANAGE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY ANTICIPATED PERSONNEL AND
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WERE NOT ANNOUNCED DURING CONGRESS AS
RUMORED. PARTY CHIEFTANS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP UNDIVIDED
ATTENTION OF PUBLIC FOCUSED ON AFFAIRS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF PARTY, POSTPONING ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER CHANGES UNTIL ALL
POSSIBLE MILEAGE IS SQUEEZED OUT OF THIS FOURTH MANIFESTATION
OF MAURITANIAN DEMOCRACY.HANDYSIDE

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